



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE
THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE 3400
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
Capitol: (860) 240-8875
Toll Free: (800) 842-1421
E-mail: Rob.Kane@cga.ct.gov
Website: www.SenatorKane.com

**DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER PRO TEMPORE AND
CAUCUS CHAIRMAN FOR POLICY**

RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dear Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Giegler and the distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today in support of Senate Bill No. 430 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL.

This proposal was brought to my attention by a resident of Middlebury, a town which Senator Hartley and I both represent. An incident occurred where a police officer responding to a call coincided with a school bus dropping off a child after school. The officer slowed down – as required by current law – and no one was hurt, but this does seem to illustrate a potential weakness in our motor vehicle laws. Senate Bill 430 is a step towards addressing this weakness.

Current law allows the operator of an emergency vehicle to disregard stop signs and red lights, et cetera, so long as they do not put the lives of others at risk. In addition, current law does not distinguish between a stop sign at an intersection and the stop sign on a bus signaling that a child is crossing the road. I have no problem with emergency vehicles disregarding stop signs and red lights, but I believe that any emergency vehicle should at least come to a brief stop when passing a school bus where children could be in the roadway, which is what S.B. 430 would require.

Senate Bill 430 would only affect a very small percentage of emergency responses, but I believe it could avoid a tragedy. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. J. Kane".

Rob Kane
Deputy Minority Leader Pro Tempore